

Griffis, Dr. William Elliot

1922 ?

344 West 56 St. N.Y.  
Jan. 4 '1921

The Humaniatic Society.

Gentlemen, can you refer  
me to some book or article which  
throws light upon the origin of  
our U.S. national coinage,  
or to some critical examination  
of the ideas, purposes, models  
or borrowings, from the experience  
of European nations - e.g. from  
the reasons for not retaining the British system?  
the Dutch Republic? At your  
full convenience, answer and  
oblige. Yours truly

Wm Elliot Chaffin

P.S. Did the Central Region (N.Y., N.J.,  
Penn., Del.) have special weight or  
influence in securing the adoption  
of the decimal system? <sup>25</sup> Is there a history  
of the U.S. Mint?

January 5th, 1922

Dr. William Elliot Griffis  
344 West 56th Street  
New York City

Dear Sir:

In response to your note of January 4th, I believe you will obtain the information you desire from Alexander Hamilton's report in connection with the establishment of the Mint. I enclose a card giving the full title for this pamphlet issued in 1791.

To cover the period immediately preceding, I think you will find Del Mar's History of Money in America suggestive. He is a compiler rather than an author. You might also consult Evans' History of the Mint prior to 1865.

I understand that your enquiry is with respect to the coinage alone, and not to paper money conditions or the financial situation of the country.

I cannot say that there was any sectional influence upon the ultimate decision of the Congress.

Trusting this will give you the desired information,

Very truly yours,

Secretary

WM/E  
Enc.